

Idaho's Urban-Rural Divide

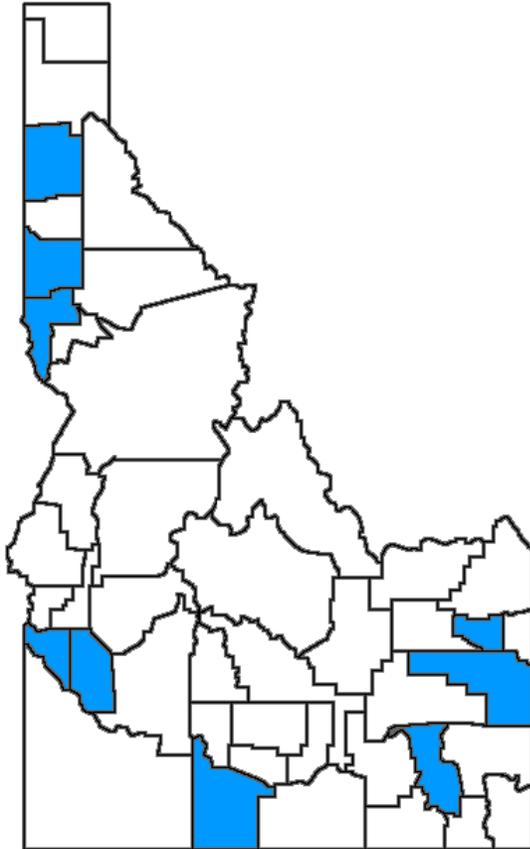
Workforce Development Council



Samuel Wolkenhauer, Economist
Idaho Department of Labor
April, 2018

Defining Rural Idaho

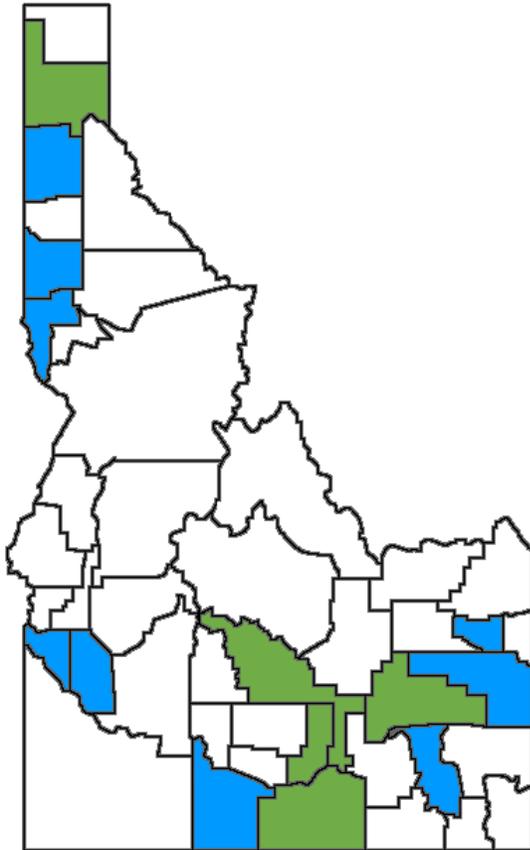
Four Types of Counties



Urban Counties contain a city with at least 20,000 residents.

Defining Rural Idaho

Four Types of Counties

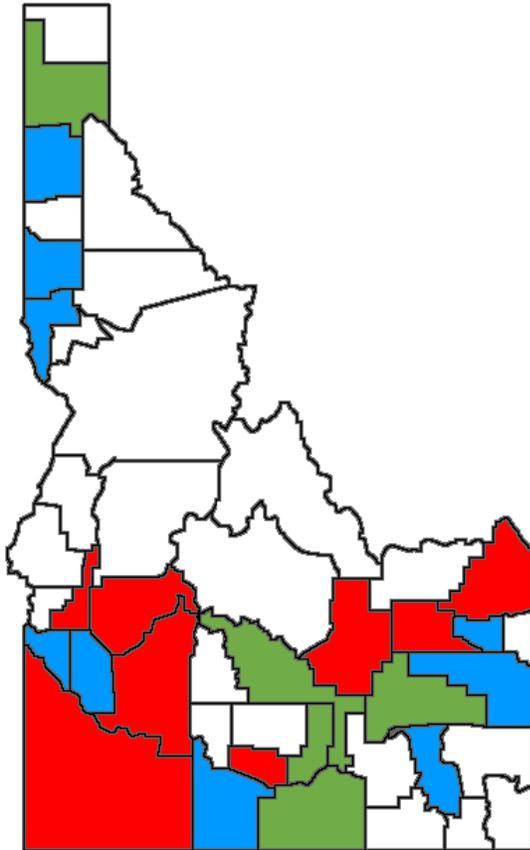


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Rural Centers contain a city with between 7,500 and 20,000 residents.

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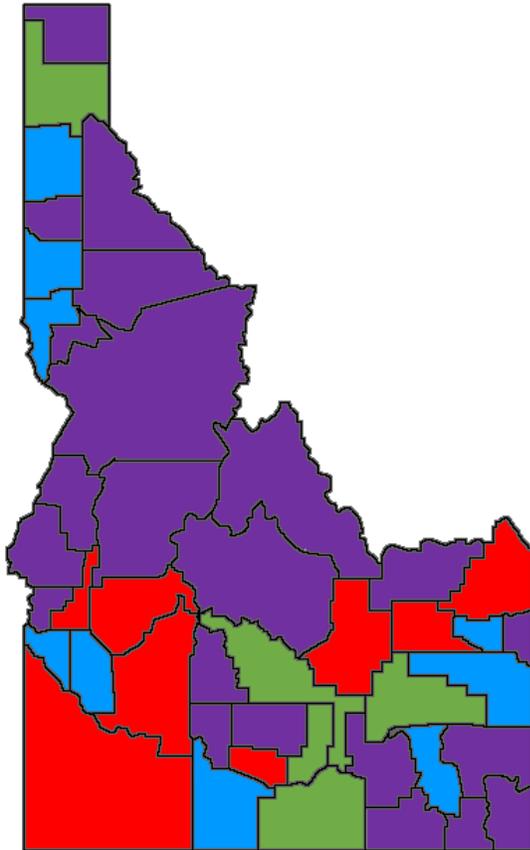
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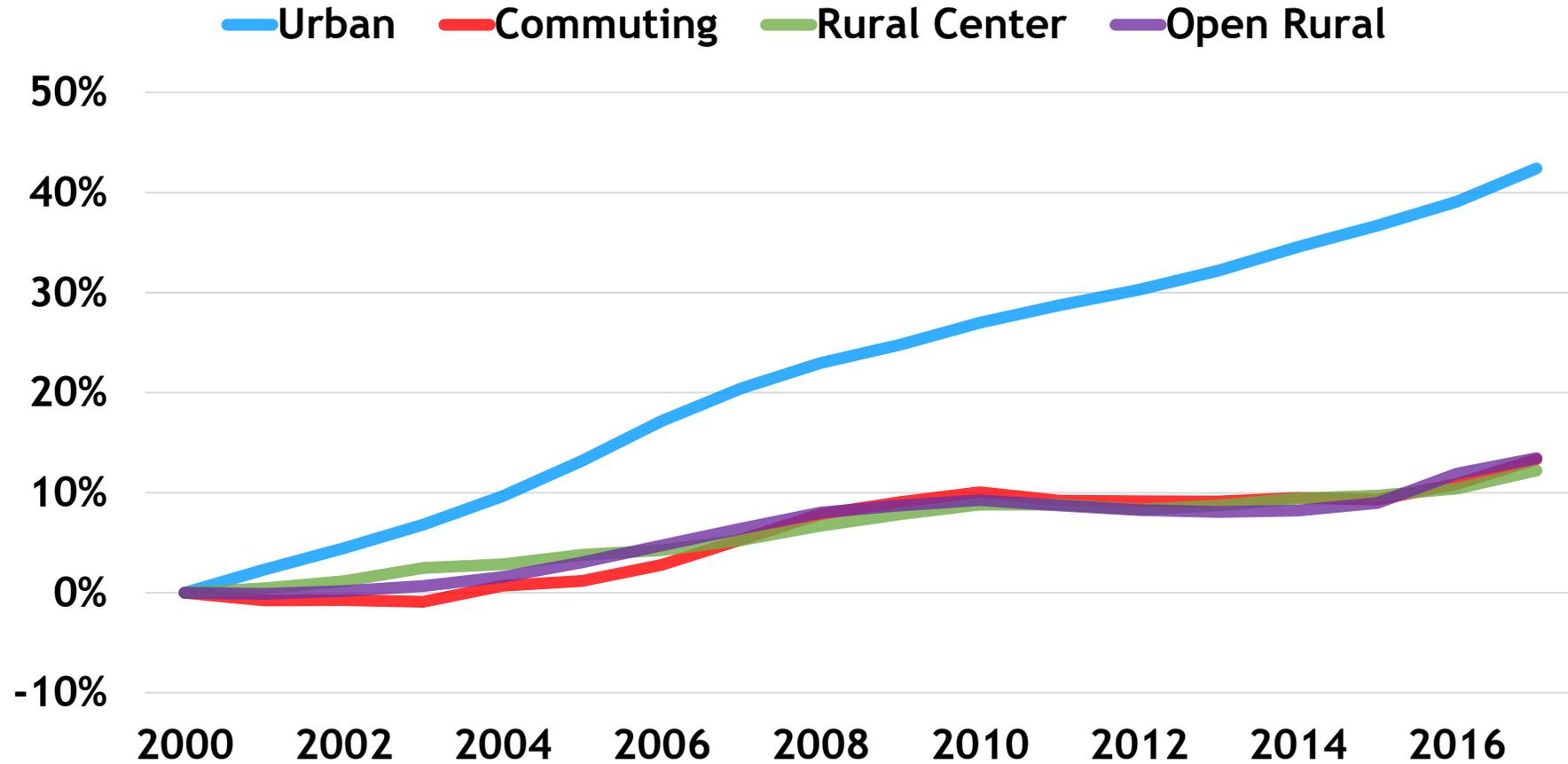
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Open Rural Counties meet none of the above criteria.

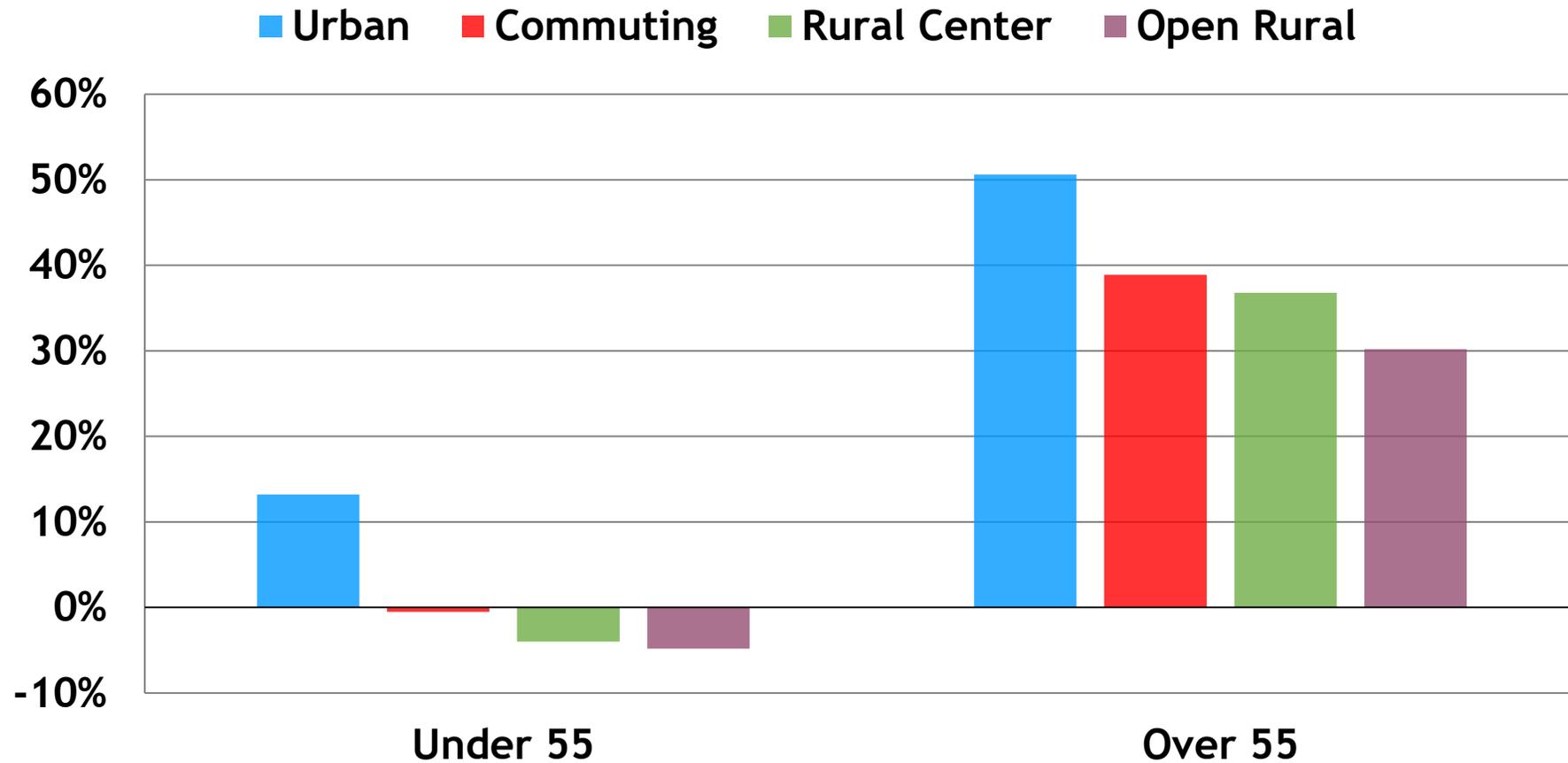
Population Growth in Idaho

Net Growth Percentage by County Type



The Aging of Rural Idaho

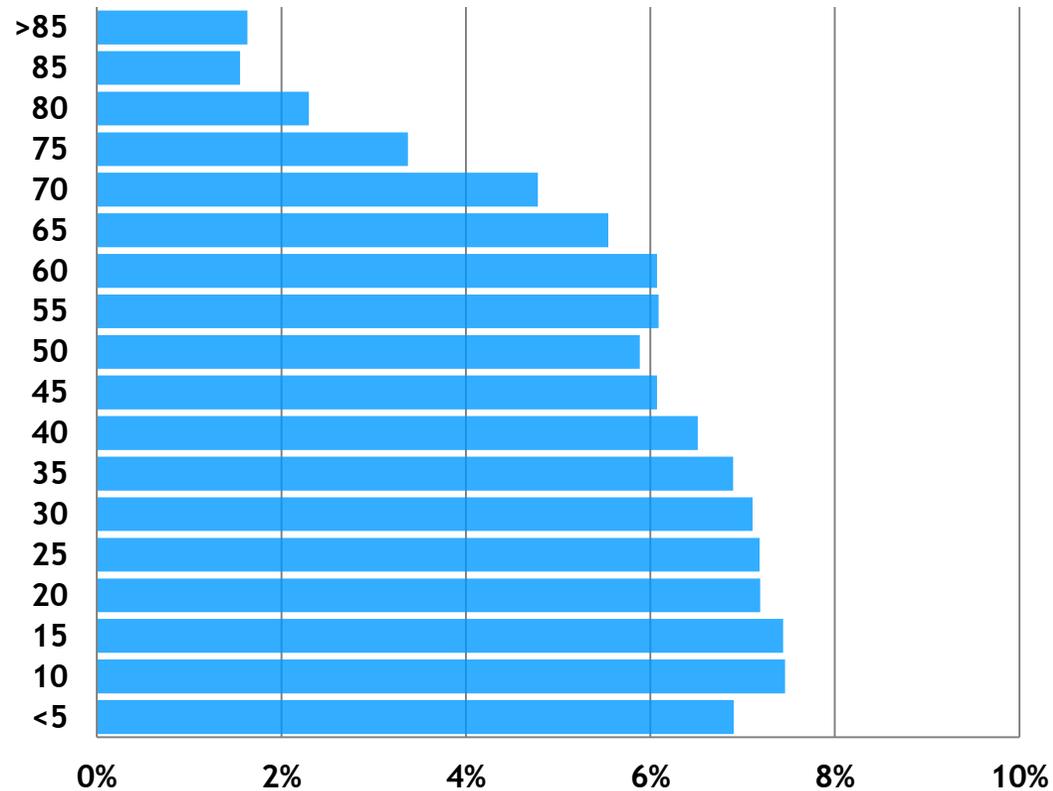
Population Growth, 2005 - 2015



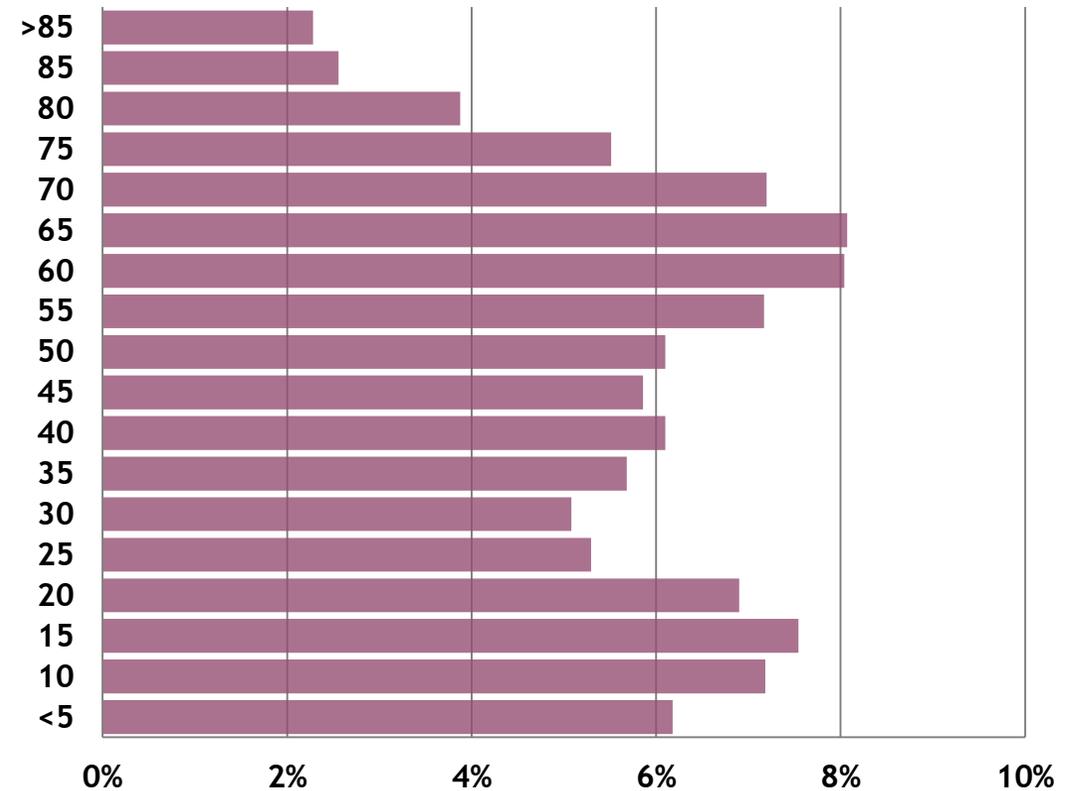
The Aging of Rural Idaho

Population Pyramids

Urban



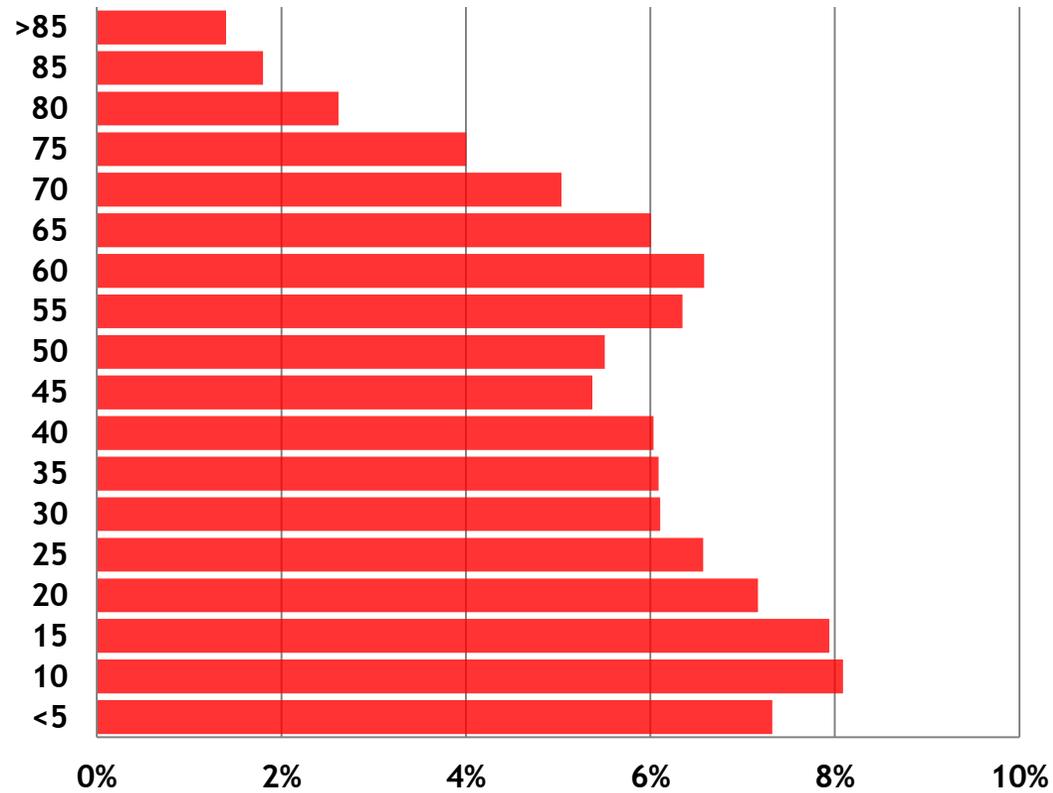
Open Rural



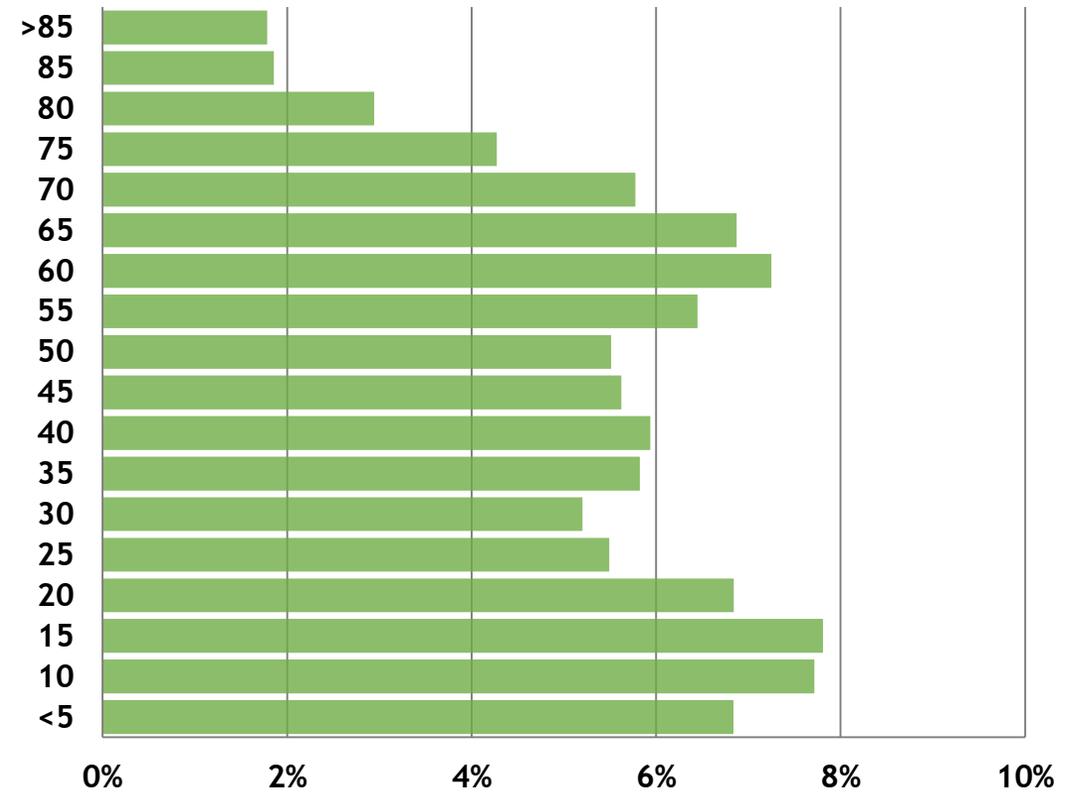
The Aging of Rural Idaho

Population Pyramids

Commuting



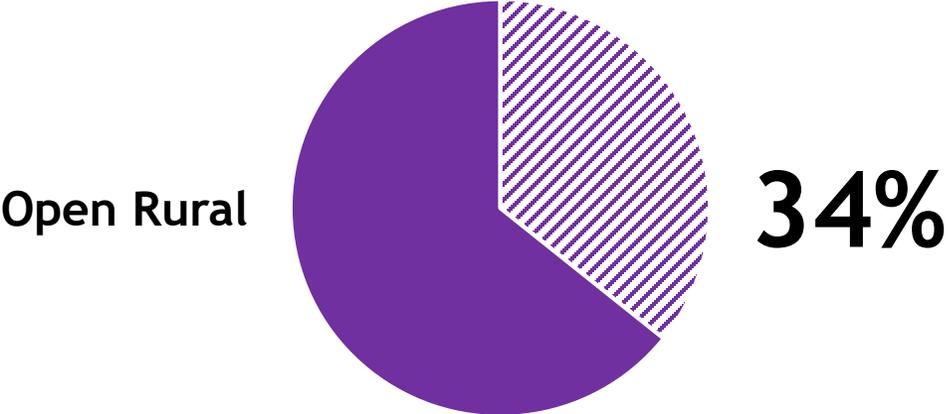
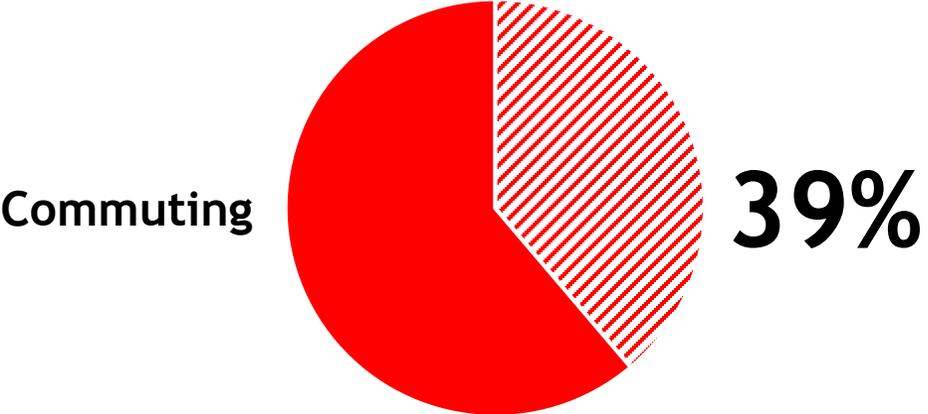
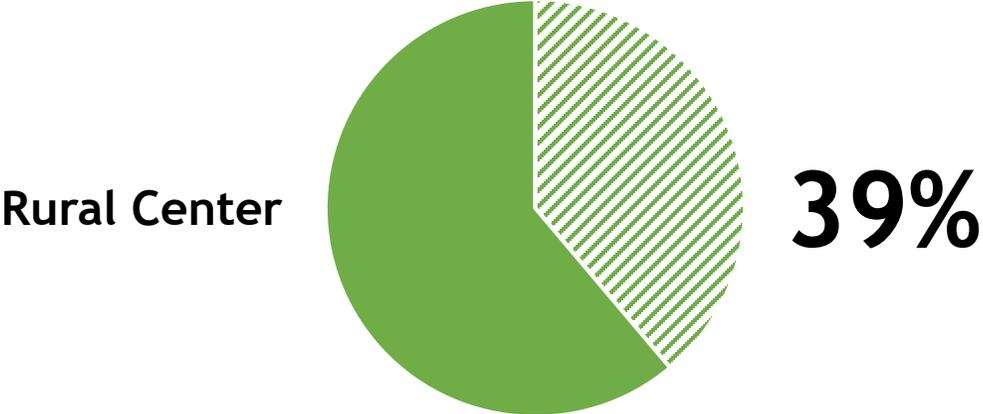
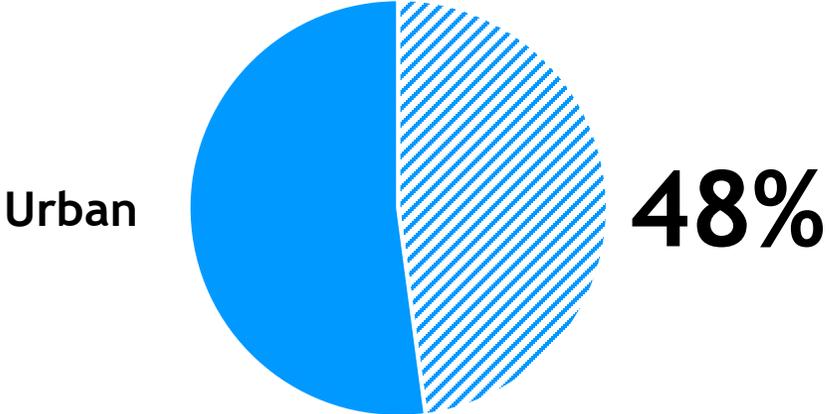
Rural Center





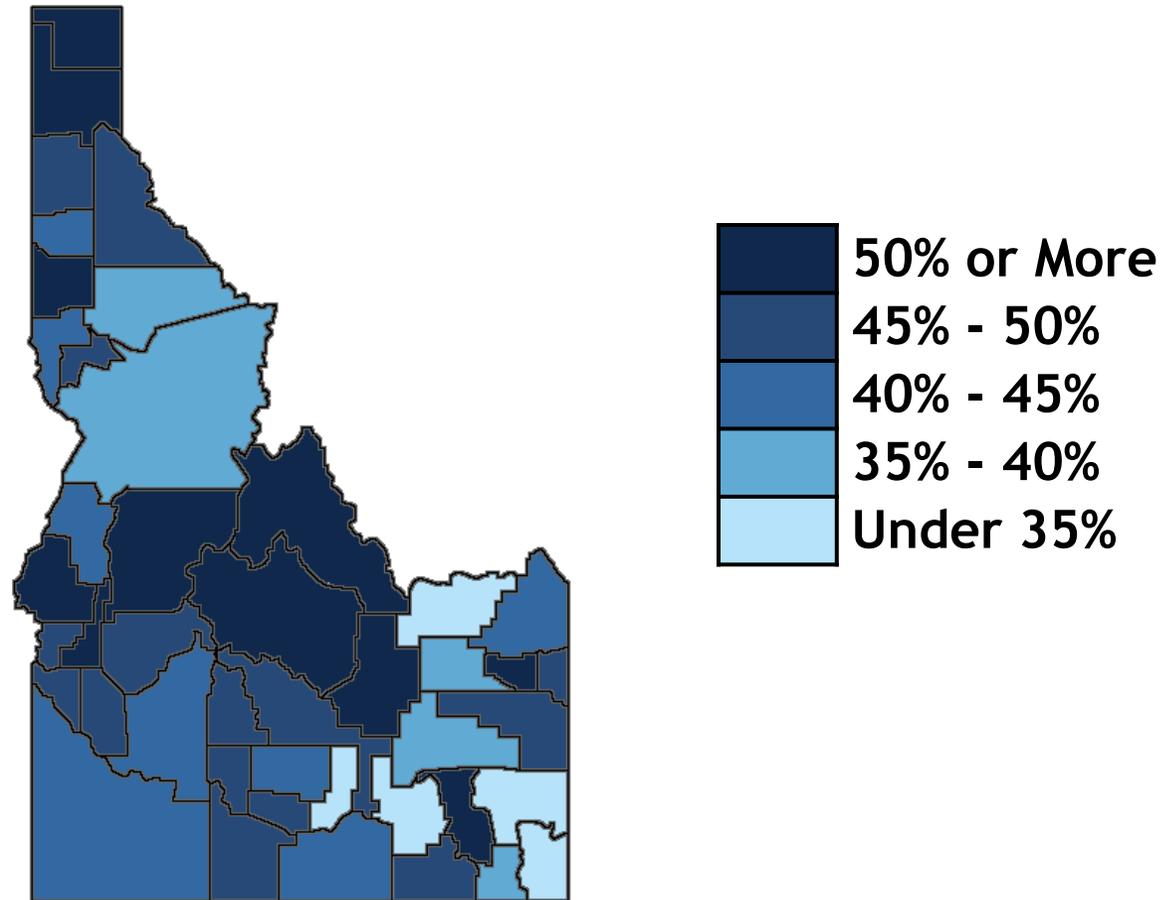
Variance in Housing Stock

Percentage of Households that Rent



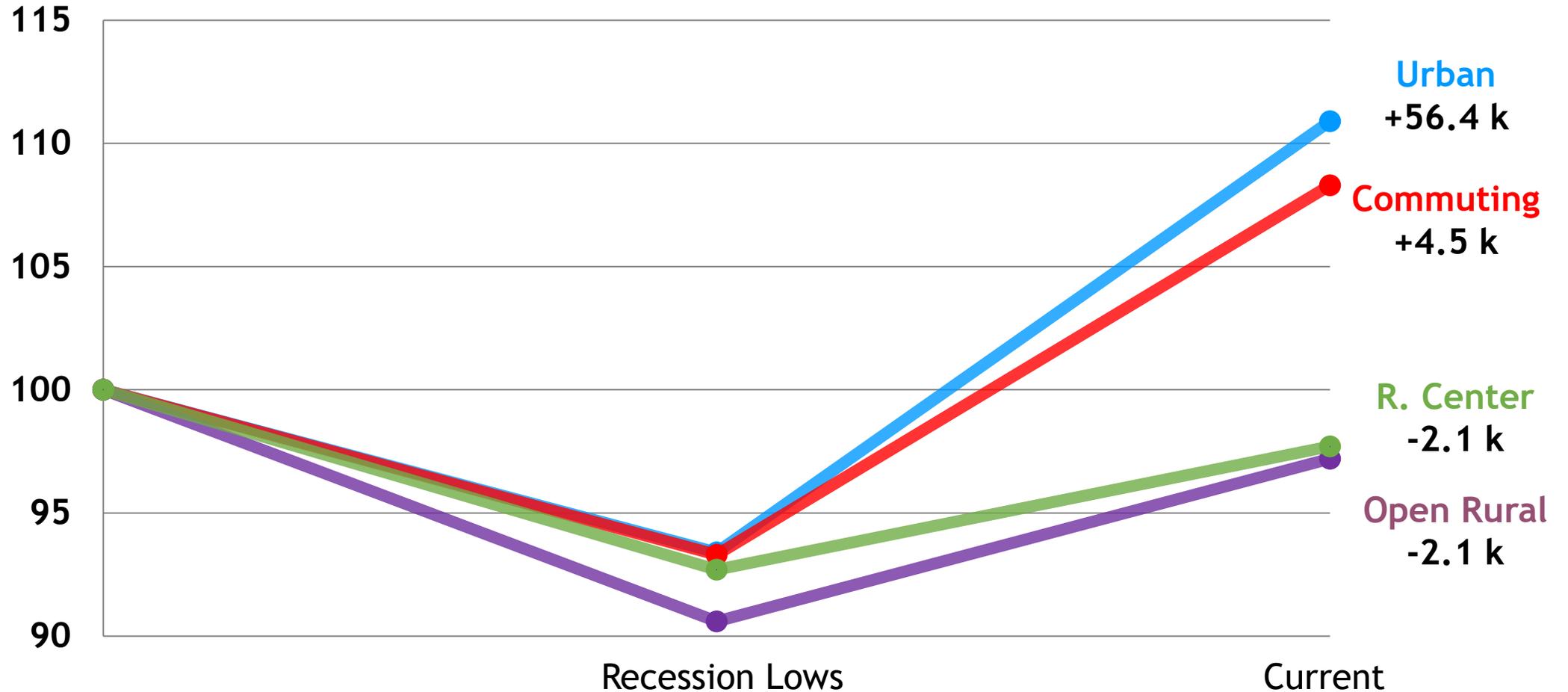
Pricing Out Renters

Percentage of Households that are rent-burdened



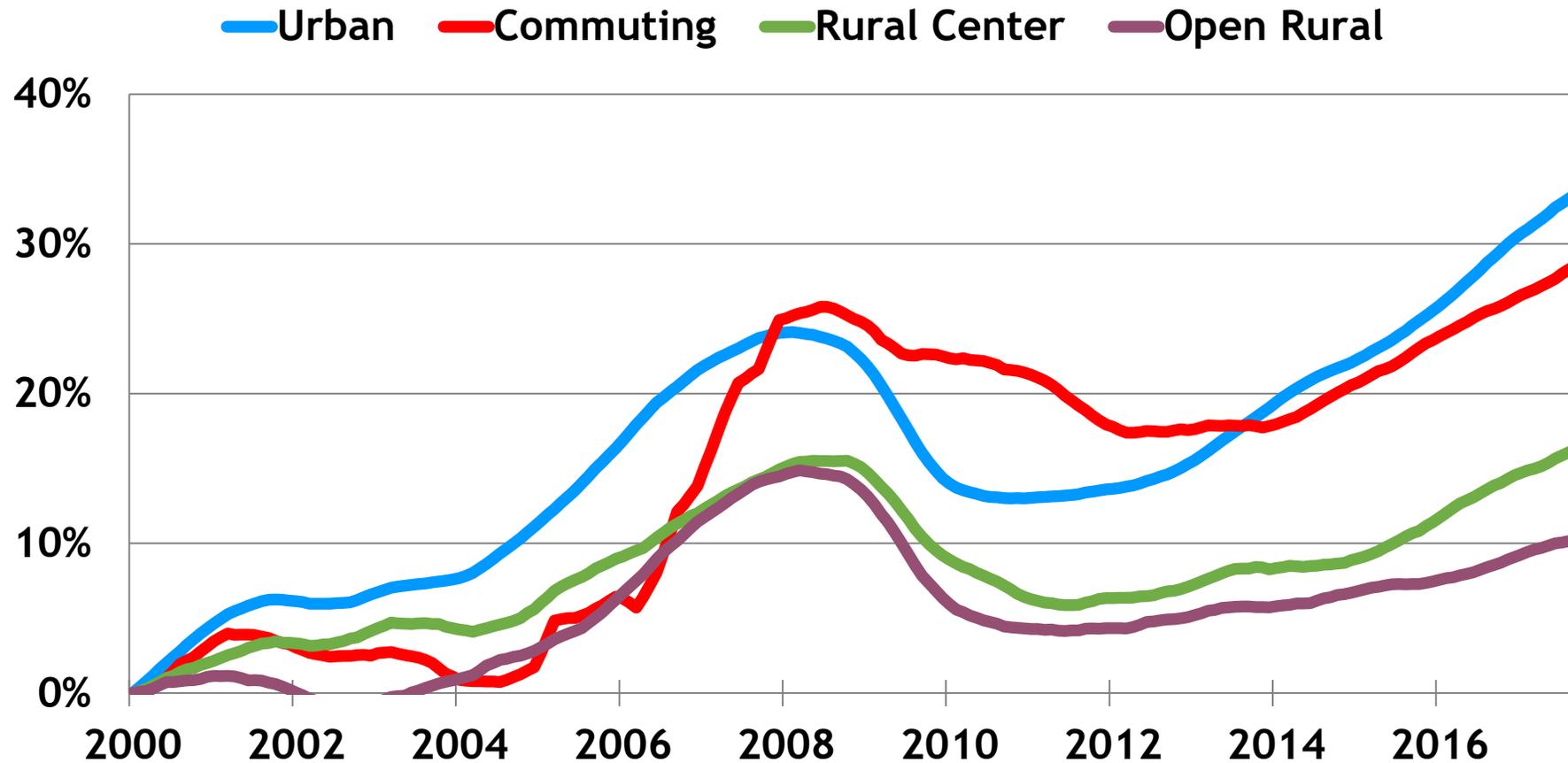
Employment Through the Recession

Percentage Change from Pre-Recession Highs



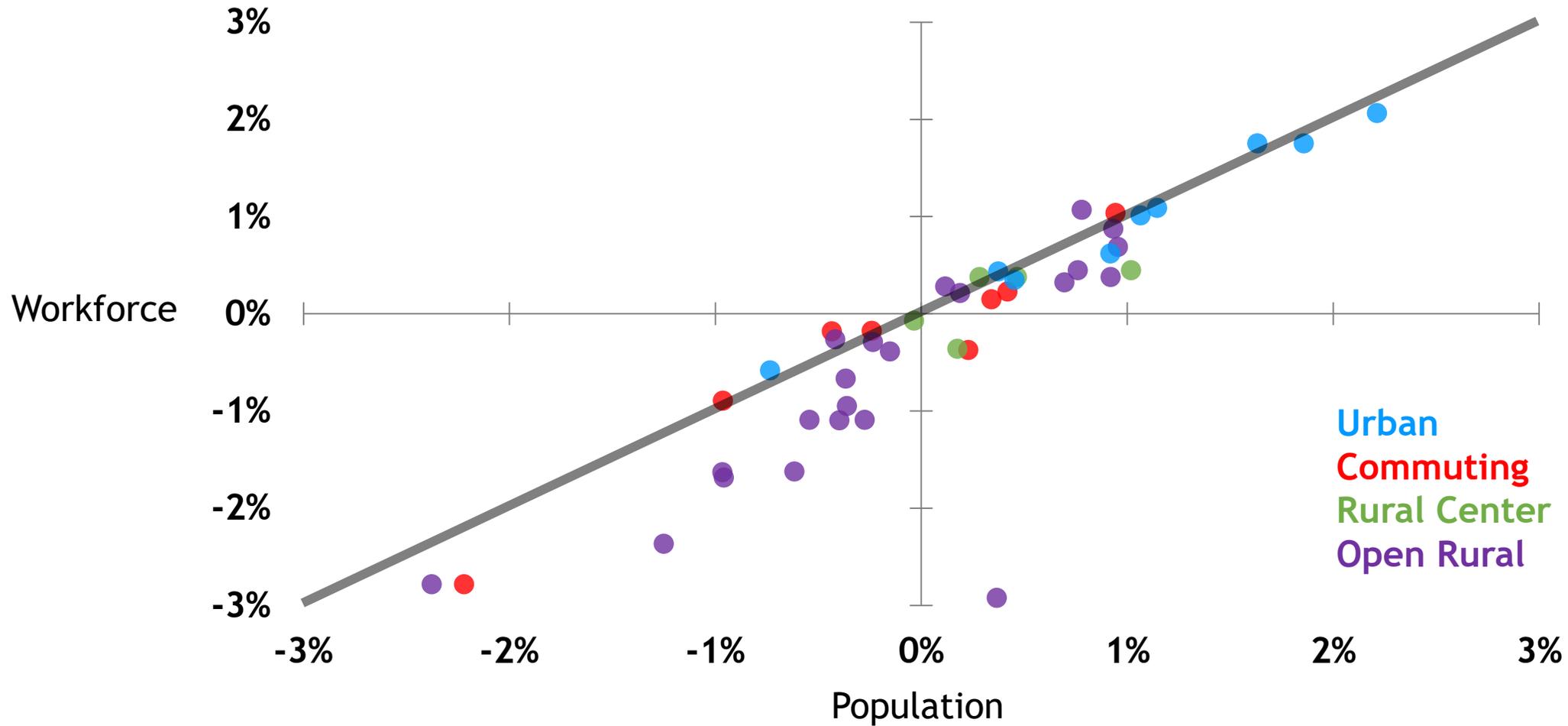
Total Covered Employment

Percentage Change from 2000



Our Projections

Projected Annual Growth Rates, 2016 - 2026



Three Things to Remember:

- 1) Urban Idaho is booming. Rural Idaho is depressed.
- 2) Rural Idaho is at a demographic tipping point.
- 3) Wages are very important to rural workers, who often (counterintuitively) face higher costs of living.